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SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 58th MEETING

Chairman:	Mr. SRIVIHOK (Vice-Chairman)	(Thailand)
later:	Mr. CISSÉ (Chairman)	(Senegal)

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AGENDA ITEM 96: CRIME PREVENTION AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE

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In the absence of Mr. Cissé (Senegal), Mr. Srivihok (Thailand), Vice-Chairman, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 3.20 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 96: CRIME PREVENTION AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE (A/49/288-S/1994/827, A/49/307-S/1994/958, A/49/315, A/49/350 and Add.1, A/49/381, A/49/422-S/1994/1086, A/49/593, A/49/712 and A/49/748; A/C.3/49/27; E/1994/31 and Add.1)

1. Mr. VETERE (Chief of the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch, United Nations Office at Vienna) said that the World Ministerial Conference on Organized Transnational Crime, held in Naples (Italy), had adopted the Naples Political Declaration and Global Action Plan against Organized Transnational Crime. The large number of participants, the high level of representation and the extensive coverage by the media showed that Governments and the public at large attached high priority to the issue of organized transnational crime and were aware of the need to launch a concerted international counter-offensive in the face of the threat posed by organized crime to political structures and internal peace and progress in countries in transition, as well as in countries with a well-established democratic tradition. The Heads of State and Government and the Ministers meeting in Naples had proclaimed their political will and strong determination to ensure full and expeditious implementation of the commitments undertaken in the Political Declaration and Global Action Plan.

2. The participants in the Conference believed that the United Nations had a particularly important role to play in the area of technical cooperation, especially in the drafting of legislation, the organization of specialized training courses for criminal justice officials and the gathering, analysis and exchange of information and the exchange of experience. On the proposal of the host country, the Conference also adopted by acclamation a resolution concerning the establishment of an international task force to elaborate proposals on the feasibility of establishing an international training centre for law enforcement and criminal justice personnel. The results of the work of the task force, which would be organized and hosted by the Italian Government at no cost to the United Nations, would be submitted to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its next session.

3. Lastly, the Conference emphasized the urgent need for the developed countries to assist the more vulnerable members of the international community in their fight against organized transnational crime.

4. Another aspect of organized crime was dealt with in the report on measures to combat alien-smuggling (A/49/350), submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 48/102. The Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 1994/14, had condemned that widespread practice.

5. Mention should also be made of the International Conference on Preventing and Controlling Money Laundering and the Use of the Proceeds of Crime, held at Courmayeur (Italy), the conclusions and recommendations of which had been considered at the World Ministerial Conference. A manual on measures against

corruption had been issued and a code of conduct for public officials was in course of preparation.

6. Five regional meetings had been held in preparation for the Ninth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders. The Congress would provide an opportunity for an exchange of experience and expertise and for strengthening international cooperation.

7. The plethora of requests for technical assistance underlined the pervasiveness of needs in that field. The United Nations interregional advisory services could not keep pace with the demand and the regional institutes, particularly those in developing regions, did not have adequate resources to meet all the needs. In that connection, he made a special plea for support for the United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders in Kampala (Uganda) (see document A/49/712) which was doing impressive work but which was in a very precarious situation. The critical economic situation, ethnic strife and large-scale refugee movements had contributed to the upsurge in crime and delinquency in the African countries. The United Nations African Institute had a great potential for providing assistance to its members if it received the necessary funding and support from Member States and the international financial institutions.

8. As for the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme, whose resources represented only 0.1 per cent of the regular budget of the Organization, many of its activities had been carried out only thanks to the dedication and hard work of its staff and the constant support of the criminal justice community throughout the world. The necessary action should be taken to strengthen it.

9. He urged the international community to remain vigilant since transnational crime was spreading rapidly and civil society was becoming increasingly impatient. It was more necessary than ever to take concerted action at the global level.

10. Mr. FITSCHEN (Germany), speaking on behalf of the European Union and Austria, acknowledged the important role played by the United Nations, and in particular by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, in areas which the European Union and Austria regarded as particularly important, namely, international cooperation and technical assistance in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice, the fight against organized transnational crime, the control of the proceeds of crime, violence against women, violence against children, including the international traffic in minors, the role of criminal law in environmental protection, and the prevention of urban crime.

11. Other entities, however, could considerably supplement the activities of the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch in those fields and he supported the appeal by the Commission addressed to all United Nations organizations, including the international financial institutions and, in particular, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), to include crime prevention and criminal justice issues in their activities.

12. The European Union and Austria were alarmed by the growth in organized transnational crime and by the use of the proceeds of crime to take control of legitimate business activities. They noted that, despite world-wide efforts to improve coordination among law enforcement agencies, information on the various forms of that type of crime was in many cases diffuse and difficult to obtain. That made it difficult to draw up adequate international strategies focusing on the common characteristics of such crime.

13. The European countries were collaborating to establish the European Police Office (EUROPOL). The primary task of EUROPOL would be to facilitate the exchange and analysis of information and intelligence on organized transnational crime and it would play a particularly important role in the fight against international trafficking in narcotic drugs. The European Union and Austria welcomed the fact that the Economic and Social Council had requested the Secretary-General to continue to analyse and disseminate information on organized crime and on national legislation and to provide practical assistance and advisory services to States wishing to enhance their national capacity in that field.

14. The international fight against organized transnational crime also required close cooperation among States at the investigative, prosecutorial and judicial levels, and the European Union and Austria were determined to improve the effectiveness of the existing machinery for cooperation both within the Union and with other interested States. That had been the aim of the European Ministerial Conference on Drugs and Organized Crime in Eastern Europe, held in Berlin in September 1994, which had been attended by the Ministers of Justice and of the Interior of 22 European countries.

15. The World Ministerial Conference on Organized Transnational Crime, held in Naples (Italy), had also provided an opportunity for a broad exchange of views on those issues. The European Union and Austria hoped that the conclusions and recommendations of the Naples Political Declaration and Global Action Plan against Organized Transnational Crime would contribute to the development of effective strategies at the global level.

16. As for the question of the smuggling of illegal migrants, the European Union and Austria shared the view of the Economic and Social Council that the problem required the continuing scrutiny of the international community and were gratified to note that the question would be considered by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its next session.

17. There was also a need for concerted efforts to control the proceeds of organized crime. To that end, States must adopt and implement appropriate legislation to combat money laundering. On the question of strengthening international cooperation in that area, the European Union and Austria took note with satisfaction of the resolution on the subject adopted by the Commission on the Prevention of Crime, and attached great importance to the work of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) (A/49/748). They also wished to call attention to the outcome of the International Conference on Preventing and Controlling Money Laundering and the Use of the Proceeds of Crime, held in Courmayeur, Italy, in June, and to the recommendations adopted recently in Naples by the World Ministerial Conference on Organized Transnational Crime. In

addition, considering that the work of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice was closely related to the activities of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, both agencies must further coordinate their efforts in areas of major concern.

18. The European Union and Austria were of the opinion that the Commission on Crime Prevention should direct more effort to the role of criminal law in the area of environmental protection; the elaboration of a convention on environmental crimes was being carried out under the auspices of the Council of Europe.

19. The question of urban crime was also a major area of concern. The proposed guidelines for cooperation and technical assistance in the prevention of urban crime contained an extremely useful outline for a programme of action in that area. He expressed the hope that the next United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders would finalize those guidelines and upheld the call made to all United Nations agencies and financial institutions to consider including projects for the prevention of urban crime in their aid programmes.

20. The European Union and Austria were gratified to note that the Commission attached great importance to the question of violence against women, violence against children and the international sale of minors, and recognized the importance of the international instruments already adopted in that area. They fully supported the efforts put in place to strengthen cooperation and coordination between the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and the Commission on Human Rights, the Commission on the Status of Women, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, the Committee on the Rights of the Child and other bodies concerned.

21. The regional preparatory meetings to the Ninth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders had formulated many proposals on the issues contained in the agenda of the Congress. Noting that the Congresses on crime prevention were assuming a new role as a consultative agency of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme, the preparatory meeting for Europe, held in Vienna in March, had observed that the Congresses could further contribute to the needs of Member States by placing emphasis on technical assistance. To that end, the preparatory meeting for Europe had adopted a number of decisions dealing with the issues on the agenda as well as the organization of the Congress. The European Union had played an active part in the deliberations of that meeting and was ready to continue its cooperation with all the States concerned in order to ensure the success of the Congress.

22. Mr. RANGEL (Venezuela) said that his delegation attached particular importance to the question of crime prevention and criminal justice. The rise of criminality in various countries and the transnationalization of crime were of major concern to the international community and especially the developing countries, which were having to face not only the consequences of serious economic crises, but also urban crime and juvenile delinquency as well as violent crime, all of which were assuming alarming proportions.

23. Although crime was a universal phenomenon from which no country appeared to be immune, its manifestations were more serious in the developing countries despite the efforts to combat crime, strengthen the administration of justice and ensure respect for human rights. Recent trends at the global, regional and national levels confirmed the existence of a correlation between deteriorating development indices, falling living standards and rising crime. In addition, because of the shortage of resources prison conditions were deteriorating rapidly, which would further jeopardize efforts to combat crime and modernize the administration of justice. Those consequences were to be expected, since people would not be able to understand why their Governments should use scarce resources to combat crime, rehabilitate convicts and improve prison conditions instead of building schools and hospitals. That situation presented a serious dilemma for Governments of developing countries in particular, constrained, on the one hand, to efficiently manage extremely modest resources in combating underdevelopment and poverty and on the other, to endeavour to curb crime and insecurity. Within the context of strategies and policies for combating crime, those Governments had to face another dilemma: how to maintain law and order and enforce the rule of law while safeguarding the fundamental freedoms of the citizens. They therefore had to implement strategies that would bring about a balance between liberty, justice and security, while ensuring that human rights were respected. The fight against crime and the prevention of delinquency must be viewed from an integrated, multisectoral and coordinated perspective. Apart from the requisite political will, four aspects of the governmental machinery played a fundamental role: justice, education, the police and the prison administration.

24. On the question of the administration of justice, the executive and the legislative branches of government must act in concert to afford greater independence to the judicial branch, by expediting the process of reform, decentralization, and modernization of the administration of justice, in order to make it more transparent and effective. That process implied a thorough review of legislation. All those measures had been undertaken in Venezuela within the context of strategies designed to strengthen the traditional mechanisms for the administration of justice. However, the results, in many cases, had not been as expected. Economic decline had given rise to an increase in violence and organized crime. That situation had made it impossible for the courts in Venezuela to dispose of cases expeditiously. The situation was particularly serious in many developing countries.

25. The strategy to prevent crime should give special emphasis to education, since it was a question of shaping new generations and creating a culture of respect for human rights in order to ensure the protection of the family and society. The education of children and adolescents was of the utmost importance; more schools and universities would have to be built, for which more financial resources should be made available, so that there would be no need to build prisons and rehabilitate delinquents in future. An adolescent who abandoned his studies was, in fact, a potential delinquent. The cooperation of the media, particularly television, was essential in order to educate society and fight crime.

26. The role of the police should be carefully evaluated because, in view of the rise in crime, it was considered the only force capable of suppressing

delinquency. In order to change that mentality, the international community should contribute to the preparation of police training manuals, stressing respect for human rights. The police should be provided with help in maintaining better relations with civil society, improving the status of its members and modernizing its methods. The neighbourhood associations which had been created in many Venezuelan cities could be of great assistance to the police in the fight against crime.

27. With regard to prisons, the overcrowding caused by the rise in crime posed numerous problems to Governments which had undertaken to enforce respect for human rights. Despite the various measures taken to improve that situation (such as the privatization of some prison activities, mediation and social reconciliation, a reduction in preventive detention sentences, release on parole, early release in the case of minor offences, assistance programmes, prisoner rehabilitation and the humanization of prisons), the problem persisted. Some of the aforementioned measures, set out in the Standards and Norms of the United Nations in Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, had been applied with some success in Venezuela. On the bilateral level, the Venezuelan Government was currently negotiating agreements with a number of different countries for the repatriation of prisoners.

28. In respect of transnational crime (such as the smuggling of aliens, white slave trade and international trafficking in children), the international community was preoccupied mainly by drug trafficking and money laundering which, together with terrorism, constituted serious threats to the sovereignty of States and the stability of democracies. The World Ministerial Conference on Organized Transnational Crime, which had taken place recently, had adopted important recommendations (see document A/49/748). On the other hand, the Ninth United Nations Congress for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, to be held in April 1995, should help to reinforce international cooperation significantly, particularly with regard to technical assistance for the crime prevention and criminal justice programme.

29. Mr. AMRI (Indonesia) said that the profits gained from crime, estimated to be as high as 1 trillion dollars annually, had reached alarming proportions, since those who benefited were given the means to confront and even to overwhelm local and national police and law enforcement agencies. Organized crime had become a transnational phenomenon, whose negative impact on social and political values and structures was clear. It posed an alarming threat to economies that were sensitive to monetary fluctuation, and to fragile national infrastructures. Organized crime in its various forms (including drug trafficking and violence against women and children, particularly their exploitation for prostitution and pornography) therefore required the concerted action of Governments under a cohesive international strategy worked out by the United Nations.

30. His delegation welcomed the outcome of the International Conference on "Laundering and Controlling Proceeds of Crime: a Global Approach", which had been held in Courmayeur, Italy, in June 1994 under the auspices of the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch of the United Nations. As criminal enterprises were very flexible, and adapted rapidly to the new possibilities offered as more borders opened and international migrations increased, the Conference had offered a timely opportunity to study the new situation, and

particularly to focus on the problems faced by the developing countries and economies in transition as a result of money laundering and the use of illegal profits.

31. His delegation had welcomed a draft resolution submitted to the General Assembly by the World Ministerial Conference on Organized Transnational Crime, held in Naples, Italy, in October 1994, as well as the Political Declaration and Global Action Plan which had been adopted (A/49/748). Indonesia was pleased to note that the Political Declaration had taken into account the varying structures and activities of organized transnational crime from region to region, in response to local political, economic, cultural and social conditions. He noted the usefulness of the guidelines considered by the Conference for achieving compatibility in national legislation. His delegation was also convinced that the model treaties on international cooperation adopted by the General Assembly on the recommendation of the Eighth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and Treatment of Offenders, as well as the other models reviewed by the Ad Hoc Working Group, had contributed to efforts to forge a workable international strategy.

32. Indonesia also welcomed the efforts made at the World Conference to determine more effective arrangements for international cooperation in investigation and prosecution, and at judicial levels. Since coordination was decisive at the operational level, the members of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) continued to work towards improving regional cooperation, particularly through the ASEAN Senior Officials on Drugs meetings.

33. Recalling General Assembly resolutions 46/152 and 47/91, Economic and Social Council resolution 1992/22 and the Ministerial Meeting at Versailles (1991), he welcomed the strengthening of the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch in the area of technical cooperation, as well as the additional resources provided under section 20 of the programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995. The provision of the post of an interregional adviser, albeit on a temporary basis, should enhance the Organization's anti-crime effectiveness. He was, however, concerned that several requests for training, technical assistance and advisory services continued to await extrabudgetary funding.

34. He noted that preparations for the Ninth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders were progressing satisfactorily. In January 1994, the Asia and Pacific Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Congress held in Bangkok, Thailand, had considered several recommendations to be submitted to the Congress, referring to the strengthening of international cooperation and technical assistance, as well as the measures to be taken against national and transnational organized economic crime. The need to address several underlying causes of crime, such as poverty, unemployment, overpopulation and urbanization, had been stressed. The Ninth Congress would include a workshop on urban policy and crime prevention, as well as one on mass media and crime prevention.

35. Under its sixth five-year development plan, Indonesia had begun to review its national legal system. The objective was to improve laws and enhance people's awareness of the law, specifically by organizing meetings in the

country's 27 provinces. Likewise, Indonesia was trying to make public prosecutors more sensitive to the legal and justice values of the community.

36. Recognizing the remaining obstacles but none the less encouraged by the progress that had been made within a limited budget capacity, his delegation believed that in 1995 the Ninth Congress, the World Summit for Social Development, the Fourth World Conference on Women and the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations would provide ample opportunities to identify areas where the interlinked nature of crime, social development and economic progress would require realistic action.

37. Mr. Cissé (Senegal) took the Chair.

38. Mr. ABRAMOV (Russian Federation) said that organized crime, which posed a particular threat to the world community, had unfortunately also taken root in Russia. Aware of the danger that it posed, the Russian Government had concentrated its efforts on the elaboration of a legal basis for counter-action. In June 1994 the President of the Russian Federation had issued a decree entitled "On Urgent Measures to Protect the Population Against Gangsterism and Other Forms of Organized Crime", which, six months later, had already proved effective. The elaboration of various laws designed to crack down on corruption and organized crime, prevent the laundering of illicit proceeds and enhance crime prevention had entered its final stage. A federal programme for stepping up the fight against crime during the period 1994-1995 had been put in place, the goal of which was to ensure a comprehensive approach to the complicated issues of protecting Russian citizens from criminal activities. On the organizational level, the number of staff in specialized units engaged in the war on organized crime had more than quadrupled; the financing and technical support of those units had been significantly improved. As a result of those measures, in 11 months, almost 4,000 criminal groups of varying degrees of organization had been exposed in Russia, approximately 9,000 firearms had been seized and considerable sums of money and valuables obtained through criminal practices had been confiscated.

39. All of which illustrated that Russia and its law-enforcement agencies were able effectively to combat organized crime while protecting the individual, society and the State. His delegation rejected the grossly exaggerated assessments circulated by the media both inside and outside the country which alleged that criminal activities were being organized from the former Soviet Union, and Russia in particular, and then spreading abroad. Such allegations were designed to isolate Russia politically and economically, to raise obstacles to investment and to slow down Russia's transition to a market economy. It was to be noted that the number of crimes committed abroad by citizens of the former Soviet Union did not exceed 1 per cent of the total number of crimes committed in each country, a fact which had been confirmed by experts from the Council of Europe.

40. There was nothing to corroborate doubts regarding the safety of storage of radioactive substances and nuclear materials in the Russian Federation. According to the most recent verification carried out in Russia by order of the President, the relevant installations had reported that no materials that could be used to manufacture nuclear weapons had either disappeared or been stolen.

Generally speaking, the crimes that had been committed (80 over the preceding two years, 32 of which were larcenies) were connected with sources of ionizing radiation and low-grade derivatives of uranium-238.

41. At the same time, his delegation recognized the danger of the transnationalization of illegal activities by criminal groups as a result of increased contacts with criminal groups abroad, a situation which Russia's law-enforcement agencies found difficult to control. Consequently they had enhanced cooperation with their foreign colleagues, and the Russian Federation unreservedly supported the measures taken in that sphere by the United Nations.

42. President Boris Yeltsin had stated in his address to the forty-ninth session of the General Assembly that the Russian Federation favoured a world that was able to oppose terrorism, drug trafficking and other forms of international crime. Only a common strategy could achieve that goal, similar to the one outlined in the framework of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme and fleshed out in the Global Programme of Action on international cooperation against illicit production, supply, demand, trafficking and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. In that respect, his delegation stressed the importance of the Naples Political Declaration and Global Action Plan against Organized Transnational Crime, which would lead to increased practical cooperation among States Members of the United Nations in that sphere. The Global Action Plan constituted a basis for an international strategy which could be elaborated in detail by the United Nations Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice; for its part, the Russian Federation was ready to take a most active part in that work.

43. The main areas of cooperation envisaged in the Naples Final Document were a closer alignment of national legislation; strengthening of cooperation at the investigative, prosecutorial and judicial levels; technical assistance to developing countries and countries in transition; elaboration of international instruments; and measures to prevent and control money laundering and the use of the proceeds of crime. His delegation endorsed the decision taken in Naples to request the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice to initiate the process of requesting the views of Governments on the impact of a convention or conventions against transnational crime.

44. Since that task would take a long time to implement, it would be expedient to initiate bilateral agreements to combat all forms of organized crime without delay. A model of such a bilateral agreement could be developed under the auspices of the United Nations. The matter could be discussed at the Ninth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, to be held in April 1995.

45. Regarding the international strategy that needed to be adopted on organized crime, it would be advisable to develop effective cooperation mechanisms at regional levels. In each region it would also be necessary to establish information-exchange systems and international staff training centres, drawing on the experience acquired by more developed States. In that respect, cooperation among the law-enforcement agencies of the Commonwealth of Independent States had yielded tangible results: the establishment of a Conference of Ministers for Internal Affairs; multilateral agreements on crime,

drug trafficking, legal assistance in criminal justice and exchange of information; elaboration of bilateral judicial instruments; the establishment of a bureau for coordinating the crack-down on organized crime and other major offences in the Commonwealth of Independent States; implementation of a joint Commonwealth of Independent States action plan; and the establishment of an international information centre on organized crime which would be able to provide relevant national services and research and training institutions.

46. The Russian Federation endorsed the proposal submitted by Italy at Naples regarding the establishment of an international law-enforcement training centre and the convening of a group of national experts to study that issue. Russian experts were ready to take an active part in those activities. The establishment of bilateral and multilateral task forces to carry out joint operations against transnational criminal associations and thereby discontinue their activities was an interesting initiative. The Naples Conference had laid the foundations for enhancing international cooperation to combat organized crime; his delegation advocated holding similar conferences on a regular basis in order to consolidate the efforts that had been made on that occasion. The most important task was to ensure the implementation of the decisions taken at the Conference under the auspices of the United Nations Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, as stipulated in the Final Document of the Conference.

47. Transnational organized crime was a destabilizing factor that undermined social and economic reform, caused anxiety among the population, compromised the authority and credibility of Governments and posed a threat to democracy, order and security in society and the State. The isolation, containment and elimination of criminal activities was an objective that the United Nations, as a unique instrument of international cooperation, was in a position to achieve. The Russian Federation was willing to make its contribution to that extremely important cause.

48. Mr. NIETO (Argentina), referring to the note by the Secretary-General issued as document A/49/748, said that the World Ministerial Conference on Organized Transnational Crime, held in Naples from 21 to 23 November 1994, was an important landmark in the crime-prevention efforts of entities of the United Nations system. As a result of the upsurge in transnational crime, the Conference had stressed the need for increased international cooperation to assist States in taking the necessary measures. Drug trafficking, arms smuggling, international trafficking in minors and a whole range of other serious problems made it all the more necessary to step up international cooperation. With respect to the opportunity of elaborating international instruments, the Conference had requested the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice to initiate the process of requesting the views of Governments on that issue (para. 34 of the Global Action Plan against Organized Transnational Crime (A/49/748)).

49. His delegation supported the draft resolution which the Conference had recommended to the General Assembly for adoption and which appeared in the above-mentioned document.

50. Mr. SCOTT (International Organization for Migration) said that General Assembly resolution 48/102 condemned alien-smuggling and called on States, specialized agencies and intergovernmental organizations to take steps to curtail the practice. He also referred to a parallel resolution adopted by the Assembly of the International Maritime Organization in 1993, condemning the smuggling of aliens by ship, as well as a number of related resolutions and decisions taken by regional bodies world wide.

51. The International Organization for Migration (IOM) was deeply concerned about alien-smuggling, which victimized migrants physically, socially and economically. First of all, the voyage made by migrants could in itself be dangerous; in countries of destination, migrants could be held captive and harassed by their traffickers until someone paid for their release. Women were often lured abroad with false promises and then forced into prostitution and other forms of sexual exploitation. Socially, trafficked migrants were marginalized. Fear of detection and deportation made it difficult for them to integrate. Economically, trafficked migrants were victimized for economic ends through extortion or forced labour.

52. Secondly, migrant-trafficking undermined the benefits of orderly, legal migration for the individuals and States concerned. Trafficked migrants who claimed asylum also slowed down asylum processes in receiving countries, to the detriment of those who were truly in need of asylum.

53. Thirdly, migrant-trafficking contravened international human rights, national and international laws and labour standards, residence regulations and conventions governing maritime traffic and aviation. It also violated territorial integrity.

54. The report of the Secretary-General entitled "Measures to combat alien-smuggling" (A/49/350 and Add.1) contained information submitted by Governments in States of origin, transit and destination, as well as by specialized agencies and intergovernmental organizations. It reflected IOM activities: continued publication of the quarterly newsletter "Trafficking in Migrants" and the organization of a number of meetings on the issue, including a three-day seminar which had brought together countries of origin, transit and destination to discuss possible international responses to migrant-trafficking and the protection of migrants' rights. IOM continued to refine and expand programmes which offered trafficked migrants assistance in returning home voluntarily. Although IOM was encouraged by the progress made over the past year, especially in expanding awareness of migrant-trafficking and identifying the dangers it posed, it was aware that implementation of proposed measures would take more time.

55. The international seminar held in Geneva, which had been attended by some 230 delegates from 70 countries and 40 intergovernmental, governmental and research organizations, had made a number of proposals. It had called upon IOM to: serve as a catalyst for an international dialogue on measures to halt migrant-trafficking by helping to forge the necessary alliances between and among countries, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other key actors; continue to provide a global forum for the exchange of information and experiences among countries of origin, transit and destination; organize

regional dialogues on the issue; help strengthen the collection and exchange of information; analyse the particularly vulnerable position of trafficked women; and contribute to the harmonization of policies, laws, procedures and penalties to fight trafficking and protect migrants' rights.

56. The IOM Council had endorsed an Action Plan in response to those proposals, which included activities in the following five areas: (1) in its capacity as an international forum, IOM planned to host three regional meetings on trafficking in 1995, in Africa, Asia and Latin America. It would also hold global-level meetings periodically at Geneva; (2) in the area of information gathering and dissemination, IOM would expand its information campaigns so as to keep States better informed, prevent trafficking by discouraging migrants from resorting to traffickers and improve general support for migrants and migration; (3) IOM would seek to expand its technical cooperation with those States which requested its assistance; (4) IOM would work with interested States to promote orderly migration schemes; and (5) IOM would continue to carry out assisted return activities to help bring trafficked migrants home.

57. In addition, IOM was proposing the creation of a Working Group on Migrant-Trafficking which would enable interested parties periodically to exchange information and ideas. The Working Group, for which IOM was willing to serve as secretariat, would be composed of representatives from States of origin, transit and destination and from intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations. IOM would begin to sound out potential partners and approach the international community for the necessary support for those expanded activities.

58. Trafficking in migrants was a global problem calling for global solutions. IOM's activities must be complemented by an ongoing commitment on the part of the international community to address the root causes of the problem: growing gaps in income between countries, combined with rising, but unsatisfied, expectations in poorer countries. IOM anticipated a busy year of work and would report back in a year's time on the progress made.

ORGANIZATION OF WORK

59. The CHAIRMAN said that the Committee would resume its consideration of draft resolution A/C.3/49/L.32, entitled "Capital punishment", at the afternoon meeting on 8 December. Oral amendments would appear in two separate documents, one containing the amendment submitted by the representative of Singapore and the other containing the amendments submitted by the representative of Egypt. At the same meeting, delegations would have an opportunity to make statements on the report of the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance. The deadline for the submission of draft resolutions on that report was 6 p.m. on Friday, 9 December.

The meeting rose at 4.45 p.m.